

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-23, 25, 26, and 28-49 are pending. Claims 7, 9, 11-14, 19-21, 25, 35, 36, and 44-49 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 8, 10 are currently amended. (Note: In the Office Action Summary, Deposition of Claims (4a), Examiner stated claim 6 as being withdrawn from consideration, whereas claim 6 was previously cancelled.)

103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 15-17, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ali (US 5,712,027) in view of Luvicross® (Luvicross® Product Bulletin). The Patent Office submits in part that: Ali discloses an ink receptive sheet and an ink-receiving layer wherein the sheet may be Teslin® or Tyvek® material and the ink-receiving layer comprises a binder and organic or inorganic particles, citing column 20, lines 36-45; Luvicross® discloses particles that are copolymers of polyvinylpyrrolidone and vinylimidazole that may be used as ink-fixing or solvent-fixing materials; and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the Luvicross® organic particles as the organic pigment in the ink receptive coating of Ali, motivated by the desire of providing a component that would function to fix ink jet ink thereon.

Applicants' claimed invention in one embodiment is an inkjet receptive media comprising a synthetic organic or inorganic substrate defining a plurality of pores, a coating over at least a portion of the substrate, and the coating comprising a plurality of organic particles. The organic particles comprise hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of crosslinked homopolymers and copolymers of N-vinyl lactams, homopolymers and copolymers of N-vinylimidizoles, copolymers of polyvinylpyridine, and combinations thereof.

Ali discloses an ink receptive sheet having a substrate and an ink receptive layer on the substrate wherein the ink receptive layer contains at least one ink receptive polymer and effective amount of a specific polymeric mordant having guanidine functionality (column 3, lines 28-32). The ink receptive polymer preferably is a combination of hydrophilic and hydrophobic polymers in an interpenetrating network (column 11, lines 38-46). The ink receptive layer may optionally

contain polymeric particulate material and lists polymeric beads of poly(methylmethacrylate), poly(stearyl methacrylate), hexanedioldiacryle copolymer, poly(tetrafluoroethylene), and polyethylene.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection since the requisite motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Patent Office does not exist. In this case, Ali discloses polymeric beads that are hydrophobic to improve handling and flexibility. Such hydrophobic polymeric beads provide no ink absorbency or receptivity. The beads are merely inert additives that alter the physical characteristics of the receptor. The ink absorbency of the receptor of Ali is provided by hydrophilic polymers of the ink receptive polymer component. Thus, neither Ali nor Luvicross® provide any advantages or incentive to substitute the hydrophilic polymeric materials of Luvicross® for the hydrophobic polymeric beads of Ali, absent the teaching of the present application. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the Patent Office has not provided a case of prima facie obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 10, 15-17, and 22-24 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 15-18, 22-23, 26, 28-34, and 37-43 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quintens (US 2001/0024713) in view of Luvicross® (Luvicross® Product Bulletin). The Patent Office submits in part that: Quintens discloses an ink jet recording sheet having a substrate and an ink-receiving layer wherein the ink-receiving layer contains a binder and organic and inorganic particles; Quintens does not disclose organic particles comprising crosslinked homopolymers and copolymers of N-vinyl lactams; Luvicross® discloses particles that are copolymers of polyvinylpyrrolidone and vinylimidazole that may be used as ink-fixing or solvent-fixing materials; and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the Luvicross® organic particles as the organic pigment in the ink receptive coating of Quintens, motivated by the desire of providing a component that would function to fix ink jet ink thereon.

Quintens discloses an ink jet recording sheet having a substrate and an ink-receiving layer wherein the ink-receiving layer contains a pigment, silanol modified polyvinyl alcohol, and a film-forming polymer. Quintens describes the organic pigment as polystyrene,

poly(methylmethacrylate), silicones, urea-formaldehyde condensation polymers, polyesters, and polyamides. All of these materials are typically considered to be hydrophobic.

The polymeric particles of the invention are hydrophilic. As discussed above, because the polymeric particles of the invention are hydrophilic and the polymeric particles of Quintens are hydrophobic, the requisite motivation, incentive, advantage to substitute the hydrophilic particles of Luvicross® for the hydrophobic particles of Quintens is not present, absent the teaching of the present application. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that the Patent Office has not provided a case of prima facie obviousness. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 10, 15-18, 22-23, 26, 28-34, and 37-43 be withdrawn.

In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the author designated below should the Examiner believe that such contact would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

18 July, 2003

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